

with mixed emotions

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By JOSEPHINE ZIMMERMAN

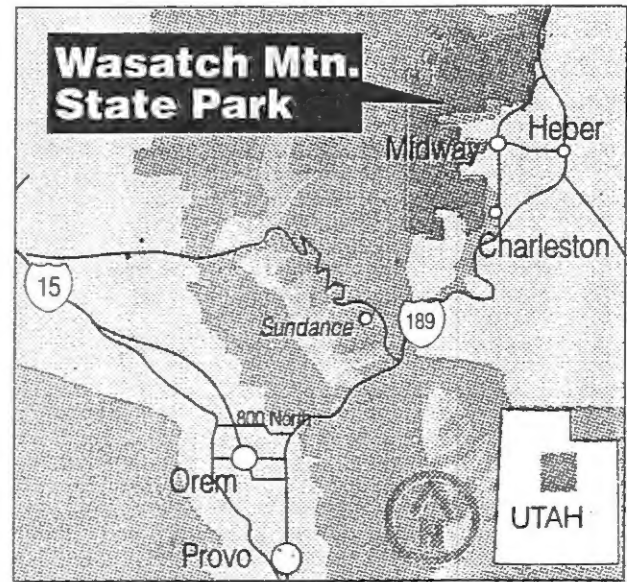
The Daily Herald

OREM — The Soldier Hollow Olympic site ought to offer cross country ski spectators an unforgettable experience, an Olympic official and former nordic skier claims.

But several residents of the Heber Valley said they take a dim view of all the headaches that will accompany the skiers. They said they're concerned about where the water for snowmaking and culinary purposes will come from and how sewer service and traffic will be handled.

"I feel people are coming to my home I haven't invited," one woman declared at a meeting of the State Parks and Recreation board held Thursday night in Orem.

Jon Alberg is games coordinator for the Salt Lake Olympic Committee. He's also a native



DAVID KENNARD/The Daily Herald

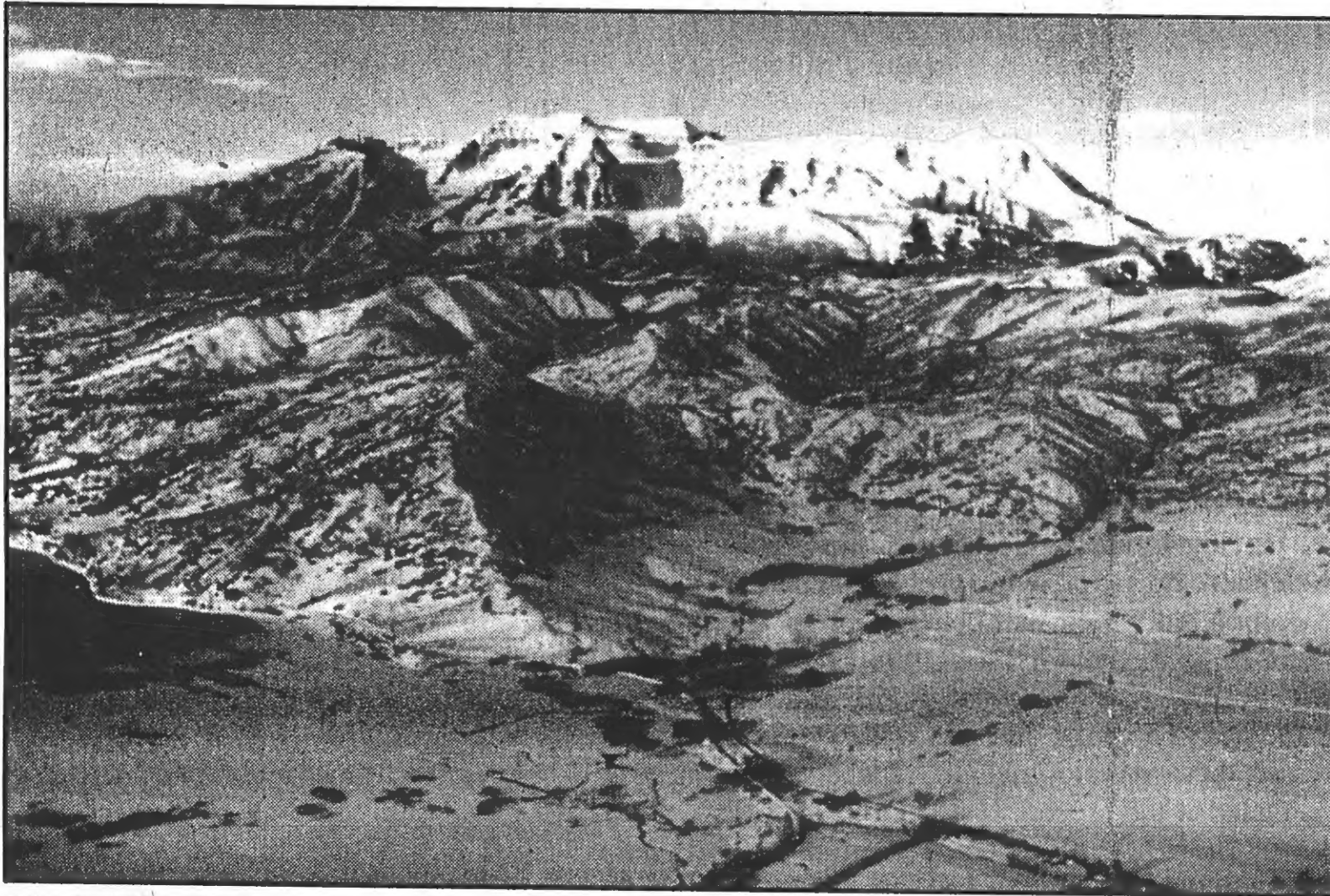
of Norway and a former Olympics cross-country athlete. He said the site at Wasatch Mountain State Park will enable spectators to see more than three-fourths of each race. "Normally they see the participants, then the athletes disappear on the course, then come back," he said.

Heber Valley will host two and a half Olympic events,

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After nearly nine months of planning and organizing, Soldier Hollow, at Wasatch Mountain State Park, was unanimously chosen as the site for the cross-country, Nordic combined and biathlon events for the Olympic Winter Games of 2002. The

the world on this place." Final selection was narrowed to just two sites, Soldier Hollow and Sherwood Hills, near Logan. But Soldier Hollow received early praise after cross-country trail designer Hermod Bjorkstol and biathlon technical adviser Janez Vodincar rated the site as the



The Soldier Hollow Nordic venue, with Mt. Timpanogos in the background, will cover a 2,000 acre area laced with trails.

the game is really exciting," said Wasatch County Economic Development Director Robyn Pearson. "It started in its infancy—the concept. I watched it grow. I watched it mature. I watched the community get behind it. I watched other people from outside the area put it through a litmus test."

Soldier Hollow's strengths not only include technical restraints, but also included a legacy facility that McKay Edwards, a professional consultant hired by Soldier Hollow organizers, envisions becoming "the most successful and active training facility in North America."

"I'm most excited about this legacy project and the people in Wasatch County come," said Mitzi Nye, county president. "It will be something not only for winter sports, but a get-up there in the summer."

Edwards' comment was on a page proposal to SLO